

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5181

C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR OMISSION)

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: PARM NATO

SUBJECT: AC/276 (SGTA)-N32, FINAL DRAFT REPORT OF MBFR SUB-
GROUP ON TACTICAL AIR (SGTA)

REF: A. USNATO 4465

B. AC276(SGTA)-N32

1. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MBFR SUB-GROUP CHAIRMAN WITH US VIEWS ON
SUB-GROUP FINAL DRAFT REPORT, MISSION NEEDS WASHINGTON GUIDANCE
REQUESTED REF A. THE REPORT IN AC 276(SGTA)-N32 IS A GOOD
ACCOUNT OF THE AIR CAMPAIGN ANALYSIS CONDUCTED BY THE SUB-
GROUP ON TAC AIR (REF B). THE AIR CAMPAIGN ANALYSIS SHOULD GO
FORWARD TO THE MBFR WORKING GROUP AFTER INCORPORATING MINOR
CHANGES THAT PLACE THE FEASIBILITY OF AIRCRAFT REDUCTION IN BETTER
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FOCUS. MISSION OFFICER WORKED OUT MINOR CHANGES WITH WASHINGTON
SGTA REPRESENTATIVE DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO MISSION. IF
WASHINGTON CONCURS, MISSION WILL FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MINOR
CHANGES AND EDITORIAL COMMENTS TO SGTA CHAIRMAN:

AM UNDER SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON PAGE 6, VOLUME 1,
RENUMBER OLD PARA 13 AND 14 AS APPROPRIATE AFTER ADDING NEW
PARA 13 AS FOLLOWS:

13. THE RELATIVE FEASIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF
REDUCING TACTICAL AIRCRAFT IN THE NGA ARE AS FOLLOWS IN THE
SPECIFIC EXAMPLES EXAMINED IN THIS STUDY:

A. SYMMETRIC REDUCTIONS: THE ANALYSIS INDICATES
THAT 10 PERCENT SYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS UNIFORMLY APPLIED ACROSS
ALL TYPES OF AIRCRAFT LEAD TO AN OUTCOME FAVORABLE TO WP,
LARGELY AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE PROPORTIONATELY GREATER LOSS
TO NATO BY DISBANDMENT IN NUMBERS OF INDIGENOUS ATTACK
AIRCRAFT. (THIS STUDY HAS NOT ASSESSED THE EFFECTS OF SYMMETRICAL
(EQUAL PERCENTAGE) REDUCTIONS, IN WHICH EACH SIDE WAS FREE TO
TAKE REDUCTIONS BY AIRCRAFT CATEGORY IN ANY MIX THEY WISHED).

B. BALANCED REDUCTIONS: COMPARED WITH THE WARSAW PACT,
NATO HAS A SMALLER ABSOLUTE NUMBER BUT A HIGHER PROPORTION OF
INDIGENOUS THAN STATIONED AIRCRAFT IN THE NGA. THUS, WHILST
REDUCTIONS IN INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT WOULD INVOLVE FEWER NUMBERS
FOR NATO THAN FOR THE WP, THE PROPORTIONAL EFFECT WOULD BE DIS-
ADVANTAGEOUS. THE WP WOULD HAVE TO WITHDRAW, BUT BE ABLE TO
RETAIN IN SERVICE, A HIGHER NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT THAN NATO. TO
PRESERVE THE EXISTING BALANCE, THE PERCENTAGE OF WP AND NATO
REDUCTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE SUCH AS TO PRECLUDE AN IMPROVED WP
POSITION. THE WARSAW PACT MUST REDUCE BY 17 PERCENT IN TOTAL
AIRCRAFT TO BALANCE A NATO REDUCTION OF 10 PERCENT UNDER THIS
CONDITION. SUCH A REDUCTION TENDS TO LEAVE NEITHER SIDE AT A
SIGNIFICANT RELATIVE DISADVANTAGE, AS COMPARED TO ITS
PREREDUCTION CAPABILITIES.

C. ASYMMETRIC REDUCTIONS: UNEQUAL PERCENTAGES
REDUCED ACROSS ALL CATEGORIES OF AIRCRAFT WOULD SEEM, IN THE
SPECIFIC CASE EXAMINED, I.E., 10 PERCENT NATO VS 30 PERCENT
WP, TO BE DECIDELY THE MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO NATO.
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D. THE LONGER AN AIR CAMPAIGN LASTS, THE MORE THE
POST-REINTRODUCTION EFFECTS OF EACH OF THE ABOVE THREE
ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF REDUCING TACTICAL AIRCRAFT WOULD SHIFT
TOWARDS MORE NATO-FAVORABLE DIRECTION. THE WP-FAVORABLE
EFFECTS OF BALANCED REDUCTIONS WOULD BECOME LESS SO; THE
GENERALLY NEUTRAL EFFECTS OF BALANCED REDUCTIONS WOULD
TEND TO BE MORE NATO-FAVORABLE; AND THE GENERALLY NATO-
FAVORABLE EFFECTS OF ASYMMETRIC REDUCTIONS WOULD BECOME
EVEN MORE FAVORABLE.

B. UNDER DETAILED OBSERVATIONS IN PARA 31, PAGE 32,
VOLUME I, ADD FOLLOWING SENTENCE AT END OF PARAGRAPH AS
FOLLOWS: FOR EACH CASE EXAMINED, NATO'S POSITION RELATIVE

TO WP DURING AN AIR CAMPAIGN IMPROVES OVER TIME.

C. UNDER GENERAL OBSERVATIONS IN PARA 32,(2)(II) ON PAGE 33, VOLUME I, ADD LEAD IN SENTENCE TO PARAGRAPH AS FOLLOWS: SOME OF THE UNCERTAINTIES WE HAVE HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT MAY BE WITHIN THE ALLIANCE'S CAPABILITIES TO INFLUENCE OR RESOLVE; OTHERS MAY NOT.

D. UNDER SUMMARY OBSERVATIONS ON PAGE 50, VOLUME II, ADD PARA 80 AS FOLLOWS:

80. ONE OF THE MAJOR RESULTS OF THIS STUDY IS THE IDENTIFICATION OF UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT THE PRESENT (PREREDUCTION) AIR SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE. THESE UNCERTAINTIES, IN TURN, IMPINGE UPON THE INTERPRETATIONS OF THE EFFECTS OF THE AIR REDUCTIONS DISCUSSED NEXT. SOME OF THE UNCERTAINTIES THIS STUDY HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT MAY BE WITHIN THE ALLIANCE'S CAPABILITIES TO INFLUENCE OR RESOLVE; OTHERS MAY NOT. REDUCTION ASSESSMENTS ASIDE, THE RESULTS OF THIS PRE-REDUCTION ANALYSIS ALSO REQUIRE EXAMINATION TO RESOLVE EXISTING UNCERTAINTIES IN A MANNER THAT WOULD MOVE THE ALLIANCE IN A DIRECTION RELATIVELY MORE FAVORABLE TO NATO.

E. TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE OTHER MINOR EDITORIAL CHANGES GIVEN THE STAFF GROUP ON AN INFORMAL BASIS.

2. REQUEST WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY COB SEPTEMBER 26, 1974.
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